

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): A flooring panel comprising:

a decorative layer with a decorative pattern;

a support layer for supporting the decorative layer, wherein the support layer is a layer comprising kraft paper, which is colored or dyed;

a carrier for supporting the support layer wherein the support layer is arranged at least partially between the decorative layer and the carrier; and,

the decorative layer is at least partially absent such that the support layer is at least partially forming an exposed portion of the support layer, the depth of the partial absence of the decorative layer being small enough to ensure that the carrier has an upper surface that remains covered by the support layer; and

first and second upper edges on opposite sides of the panel, one of the opposite sides having a tongue and another of the opposite sides having a groove, the tongue of one panel and the groove of an adjacent panel cooperating to limit at least up and down movement of said panel relative to an adjacent similar panel.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The panel of claim 1, characterized by the decorative layer being absent at least in an area located at an edge of the panel.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The panel of claim 1, characterized by the decorative layer being absent in an area located at one edge of the panel but not at the opposite edge.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The panel of claim 1, characterized by the decorative layer being at least absent in an area of the panel which is not located at the edge of the panel.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The panel of claim 1, characterized by the decorative layer being absent in an area which is a strip.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The panel of claim 1, characterized in that in the support layer is partially absent, preferably removed, where the decorative layer is absent.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The panel of claim 1, characterized by the panel comprising an abrasive overlay over the decorative layer.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The panel of claim 7, characterized in that the abrasive overlay is absent where the decorative layer is absent.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The panel of claim 1, characterized by the decorative layer being a printed paper.

Claim 10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (previously presented): The panel of claim 1, characterized by the carrier comprising HDF, MDF, plastic, wood.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The panel of claim 1, characterized by the cross section of the area where the decorative layer is absent being rectangular.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The panel of claim 1, characterized by a plurality of connecting portions at the edges of the panel for connecting the panels by snapping, tilting, clicking or the like with or without play.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): A method of fabricating a panel, comprising the step of preparing a sandwich of

a decorative layer with a decorative pattern

a support layer for supporting the decorative layer and

a carrier for supporting the support layer wherein the support layer is arranged between the decorative layer and the carrier,

and the step of removing partially the decorative layer such that the support layer becomes visible or by not providing the decorative layer in some area.

Claim 15 (withdrawn): The method of claim 14, characterized in that in the step of removing the decorative layer the support layer is also partially removed.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of cutting the sandwich into single panels before or after the step of removing the decorative layer.

Claim 17 (withdrawn): The method of claim 16, characterized in that the decorative layer is removed by a saw, preferably a circular saw.

Claim 18 (withdrawn): The method of claim 14, characterized in that the decorative layer is removed in an area of the shape of a plurality of stripes, where some of those stripes are in an

perpendicular orientation to each other.

Claim 19 (withdrawn): A machine for fabricating panels, comprising
a support surface for supporting panels,
a saw, which extends beyond the support surface by an amount of not more than 1.0 mm, and
a counter pressure mechanism for providing a counter pressure opposite of the circular saw.